THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under section 7A, 8, 8B, 14, 14B of the EPF and MP Act, 1952 and where necessary, also under section 406/409 of the IPC is already being taken to recover the EPF dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of the total EPF dues an amount of Rs.767.76 crore is not immediately recoverable due to liquidation, closure and other court proceedings. From the remaining recoverable amount of Rs.290.55 crore an amount of Rs. 188.99 crore has since been recovered from the defaulting establishments. The list of EPF defaulters is finalised/ updated on an annual basis.

New Policy for interests of workers

†2941. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new policy in the process of economic reforms by keeping in view the workers interests; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Review/updating of labour policy is a continuous process in order to make it in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. The Labour Policy is, to a large extent, governed by various labour laws. The Government has been amending these laws from time to time to make them more meaningful and effective. The Second National Commission on Labour has been set up *vide* resolution issued on 15.10.1999 to suggest rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

organised sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector. A two-year time frame has been given to the Second National Commission on Labour to submit its recommendations for consideration of the Government.

Stress-related mental disorder in workers

2942. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether depression is actually set to be the second most disabling illness for the corporate sector after cardio-vascular diseases in the globalisation period;

(b) if so, whether ILO and WHO studies have shown that employees are going to lose huge funds in sick leaves and lost working time of people in their most productive years as well as the number of employees is on the increase due to stress-related mental disorders; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government ot streamline the employee friendly environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dues paid to employees

2943. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) out of the factories that were closed during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 in how many factories the employees were not paid the statutory dues like wage arrears gratuity, retrenchment provident fund contribution of the employees and the contribution collected from the workers; and